

June 16, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20445
RE: MB Docket No. 04-160

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to you this afternoon with concern for the continued local content encroachment that satellite radio is posing to our local AM and FM Radio stations.

It is my understanding that as a condition to being granted their licenses, both XM Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio made promises to the FCC to not engage in nor encroach upon the local services offered by terrestrial broadcast stations. It now appears that both XM and Sirius have broken this promise with the offering of local traffic and weather services.

It is true that the very future of the AM and FM Broadcasting industry is in a perilous position. Based on comments XM and Sirius have filed in opposition to the NAB petition, both companies are aggressively on a path to localize their services. Without intervention from the FCC, these two companies will reach into every market in America and duplicate what local broadcasters do. In their own words "The sky is the limit".

In the Grand Rapids, Michigan market, WOOD-AM provides a news and information service to listeners 24 hours a day. WOOD's traffic and weather reports run every ten minutes in both drive times. We offer local news twice per hour. In times of severe weather, WOOD is the station that alerts the public of threatening weather conditions. The costs involved in providing these services are significant. But this is a commitment we have made to the community.

Additionally, local broadcast stations have an obligation for the well being of the community in which we live. Specific to the stations I represent and manage, our association with organizations like Children's Miracle Network, Make-A-Wish, Hospice of West Michigan, Special Olympics, and many other area agencies has raised over a \$1.5 million dollars in the past year. Plus the WBCT / B93 Roof Sit for kids annually raises \$500,000 to fight child abuse right here in West Michigan. Satellite Radio has no public interest limits or ownership interests. They have no local investment in the community.

The FCC, in authorizing satellite radio, vowed to protect "vibrant" local broadcasting, and promised to take the necessary actions to safeguard local AM and FM radio stations. The time for that action is now. That is why I am respectfully requesting that the FCC support the NAB Petition.

Sincerely

Edward Essick
Vice President & General Manager
Clear Channel Radio
Grand Rapids, MI